

FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: November 10, 2011

Agenda Item: Proposed Milltown State Park Land Donation_____

Division: Parks

Action Needed:

_____ **Approval of Tentative Rule**

_____ **Approval of Final Rule/Action**

___X___ **Endorse Course of Action**

_____ **None - information only**

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 min

Background

Montana State Parks proposes to evaluate the donation of a 16-acre parcel immediately adjacent to the new Milltown State Park at the Confluence of the Clark Fork and Blackfoot Rivers in Missoula County.

The vacant land, owned by International Paper, is the parks nearest neighbor to the west in the Confluence area. The parcel is located just south of Highway 200 Bonner Interchange of I-90 and is bordered by Juniper Drive to the north and the Clark Fork River to the south. (Legal description is E ½ NE ¼ Sec. 20 T13NR18W).

The property includes river frontage and an access road to the Confluence Area. It also is the site of a 4.5 acre Class II landfill. International Paper's predecessor, Champion International, historically buried mill waste (boiler fly ash and lesser amounts of wood/bark) in a gravel pit that was reclaimed with a two-foot cap, contoured and seeded. The Dept. of Environmental Quality inspected the closed landfill in October 1993 and, in a letter to Champion International, stated that the "work done was excellent" and that it complied with regulations at the time of the closure.

Public Involvement Process & Results

If approved by the Commission, and upon completion of all due diligence, an Environmental Assessment on the acquisition would be written and distributed for public comment.

Alternatives and Analysis No Action Alternative:

FWP would not accept donation of the land. IP could pursue a buyer or another entity to accept the donation. Montana State Parks would reassess access issues and current development plans at the Confluence Area while working with all landowners.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

FWP recommends approval by the Commission to proceed with the evaluation and possible acquisition of the adjacent 16 acres for inclusion in the Milltown State Park.

Proposed Motion

"I move that the Department proceed with the evaluation and possible donation of the adjacent 16 acres for inclusion in the Milltown State Park."